

TO: Superintendents

FROM: Todd Flaherty, Deputy Commissioner

DATE: February 11, 2000

SUBJECT: **GRADE 10 WRITING CONVENTIONS SCORES**

A month ago we released the results of the New Standards Reference examinations in Mathematics and English Language Arts as well as the Rhode Island Health Education Assessment.

This release represented the third year of information on mathematics at grades 8 and 10 and the second year of data in grades 4 and 8 for English Language Arts and grade 4 for mathematics. It also represented the very first year of information in English Language Arts at grade 10.

Very recently, Harcourt Education Measurement (HEM) informed us of a processing error that occurred on a small number of multiple choice items for one of the subtests (Writing Conventions). This processing error is being corrected and will result in more students achieving or exceeding the standard than originally reported. A fact sheet is attached for your information.

Attachment

RHODE ISLAND STATE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
February 2000

FACT SHEET

This information affects only the 1999 Writing Conventions score for the grade 10 *New Standards* English Language Arts Reference Examination. Districts and high schools received these score reports in December 1999.

- Very recently, Harcourt Educational Measurement found a processing error in this score and notified us.
- A small number of multiple-choice items were not handled correctly in the computer processing of the Writing Conventions portion of the English Language Arts exam at grade 10.
- As a result of correcting the error, there is an increase statewide from the originally reported data in the combined percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standard for Writing Conventions. The impact for the state is shown in the chart below.
- Corrections affect all grade 10 *New Standards* English Language Arts Reference Exam test takers across the country who used the same form of the test that we used, Form C.
- Because of the late notification to us of this correction, the upcoming *Information Works!*, which presents 1999 school and district data, will not report any grade 10 English Language Arts Writing Conventions information; later in the spring, the revised information will be posted on the Web site.

Shortly, you will be receiving revised score reports with corrected Writing Conventions scores for grade 10 *New Standards* English Language Arts. These revised reports will include summary reports and reports for individual students -- all of the same types of reports that you received in December. When they arrive, please destroy the reports you received originally. "Spring 1999 - Revised" is printed on the new reports.

Grade 10 Writing Conventions Performance, Spring 1999
Percent of Students at Each Performance Level

PERFORMANCE LEVEL	AS ORIGINALLY REPORTED	REVISED 1999 SCORES
Achieved the Standard with Honors	1%	21%
Achieved the Standard	70%	56%
Nearly Achieved the Standard	28%	23%
Below the Standard	1%	1%
Little Evidence of Achievement	0%	0%